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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/656,832	09/05/2003	Gary M. Richter	023720-0339	8427

7590 05/25/2006

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EXAMINER

NOVOSAD, JENNIFER ELEANORE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3634

DATE MAILED: 05/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/656,832

Applicant(s)

RICHTER ET AL.

Examiner

Jennifer E. Novosad

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 May 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 42-64 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 50 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 42-49 and 51-64 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This Office action is in response to the Request for Continued Examination and amendment filed May 2, 2006 by which claims 42, 43, 47-49, and 50 were amended.

Request for Continued Examination

The request filed on May 2, 2006 for a Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 based on parent Application No. 10/656,832 is acceptable and an RCE has been established. An action on the RCE follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 42-49 and 51-64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,366,099 (Schmid '099).

Schmid '099 discloses a merchandising system comprising a first base (16 defined between element 12 and the horizontal portion above element 42 shown in Figure 3) having a front (the front half portion of Figure 1), a back (the back half portion of Figure 1) and sides (right and left of Figure 3); an assembly (30, 28, 27, 26 and the unnumbered rectangular portion shown in Figure 3 which surrounds elements 42, 44, and 32A and which includes element 14, as shown in Figure 1) wherein the assembly is movably coupled and slidably engaged with the first base (16) and an includes a member, i.e., the pusher, configured to extend beyond the back, i.e., the back half of Figure 1, of the base to create a third space whereby the member comprises a vertical portion (26) configured to longitudinally extend beyond the back, i.e., the back half; the member of the assembly including a biasing mechanism (30) and curved pusher (26), i.e., the

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corners of 26 are curved, and the member is integrally formed, i.e., the elements are considered to be integrally formed once assembled; a first side (18 - left side of Figure 3) is configured to be directly coupled to the first base (16) in a first position (solid lines in Figure 1) defining a first storage space and to be coupled to the first base (16) in a second position (dotted lines in Figure 1) defining a second storage space; the first side (18) is not integrally formed with base (16); members (44) integrally form with the side that adjustably couple (at top of Figure 3) the side (18) to the base (16) by portions (i.e., teeth) that releasably engage the base; the portions that releasably engage the base define connectors, i.e., the teeth connect to element 32, 50; the first base (16) has a beveled surface (unnumbered - see triangular section near element 28 in Figure 1); the first base (18) does not include a back wall, i.e., any elements of the system are considered to define "side" walls; the base (16) includes one projection on at least one side (similar to element 46 but on the top of Figure 3) that are configured to couple to a side of a second base (19 and 44 on the right side of Figure 3 is considered to define a second base) whereby the second base has apertures (defined between adjacent elements 48); the system comprising a panel (at 20).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 50 is allowed.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 42-49 and 51-64 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. The new grounds of rejection were

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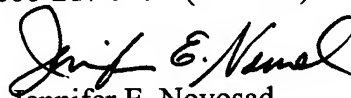
necessitated by the amendment reciting "member movable along the length" in line 11-12 of claim 42. It is noted that although the Schmid '099 reference is still being utilized under Section 102, the "back" of the base has been redefined as the back half portion of the system, as shown in Figure 1.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jennifer E. Novosad whose telephone number is 571-272-6832. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 5:30am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard E. Chilcot can be reached on 571-272-6777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Jennifer E. Novosad
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3634

May 18, 2006